

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

*SAC*

1. A filter device comprising:  
2 a housing having a first end;  
4 a first ring joinable to said first end wherein said first  
ring has a first annular anchor on an interior portion of said  
first ring;  
6 a first flange cap joinable to said first ring forming a  
first seal;  
8 a plurality of microfibers extending from said first ring  
through said housing, and  
10 a first potting material encasing said plurality of  
microfibers at said first ring and encasing said first annular  
12 anchor forming a second seal.

2. The filter device according to claim 1 further  
comprising:

4 a second end of said housing opposite said first end;  
6 a second ring joinable to said second end wherein said  
second ring has a second annular anchor on an interior portion of  
said second ring;  
8 a second flange cap joinable to said second ring forming a  
third seal;

10 a second potting material encasing said plurality of  
microfibers at said second ring and encasing said second annular  
anchor forming a fourth seal.

3. The filter device according to claim 1 further  
2 comprising:

4 a first fluid inlet port through said first flange cap,  
6 wherein a first fluid pathway is defined by said first fluid  
inlet port, said plurality of microfibers, and said first fluid  
outlet port;

8 a second fluid inlet port through said housing and proximate  
to said first end; and

10 a second fluid outlet port through said housing and  
proximate to said second end, wherein a second fluid pathway is  
12 defined by said second fluid inlet port, a space between said  
plurality of microfibers, and said second fluid outlet port.

4. The filter device according to claim 1 wherein each of  
2 said plurality of microfibers are hollow and semipermeable.

5. The filter device according to claim 1 wherein said  
2 first annular anchor and said second annular anchor receive a  
surface treatment, wherein said surface treatment modifies a  
4 surface energy of said first annular anchor and said second  
annular anchor.

6. The filter device according to claim 5 further  
2 comprising:

a first plurality of rounded ridges on an upper surface of  
4 said first annular anchor and a second plurality of rounded  
ridges on a lower surface of said first annular anchor; and

6 a third plurality of rounded ridges on an upper surface of  
said second annular anchor and a fourth plurality of rounded  
8 ridges on a lower surface of said second annular anchor;

wherein said first and second plurality of rounded ridges  
10 and said third and fourth plurality of rounded ridges on said  
first and second annular anchors minimize a delamination of said  
12 first and second potting materials from said first and second  
annular anchors, and increases a surface area of said first and  
14 second annular anchors treatable through said surface treatment.

7. The filter device according to claim 6 further  
2 comprising:

a first plurality of radial channels perpendicular to said  
4 first plurality of rounded ridges on said upper surface of said  
first annular anchor; and

6 a second plurality of radial channels perpendicular to said  
third plurality of rounded ridges on said upper surface of said  
8 second annular anchor;

wherein said first and second plurality of radial channels  
10 allow air to escape when said first and second potting material  
is applied to said filter device.

8. The filter device according to claim 1 wherein said  
2 first ring is spin welded to said first end, said second ring is  
spin welded to said second end, said first flange cap is spin  
4 welded to said first ring, and said second flange cap is spin  
welded to said second ring.

9. The filter device according to claim 8 further  
2 comprising:

4 a first plurality of nubs on an outer portion of said first  
ring; and  
6 a second plurality of nubs on an outer portion of said  
second ring;

8 wherein said first and second plurality of nubs assist in  
said spin welding.

10. The filter device according to claim 8 further  
2 comprising:

4 at least one annular channel located between said first ring  
and said first end; and

6 at least one annular channel located between said second  
ring and said second end;

wherein each of said at least one annular channel  
8 accommodates a flow of flash material during said spin welding.

11. The filter device according to claim 8 further  
2 comprising:

at least one annular channel located between said first ring  
4 and said first flange cap; and

at least one annular channel located between said second  
6 ring and said second flange cap;

wherein each of said at least one annular channel  
8 accommodates a flow of flash material during said spin welding.

12. The filter device according to claim 1 wherein said  
2 first ring is laser welded to said first end, said second ring is  
laser welded to said second end, said first flange cap is laser  
4 welded to said first ring, and said second flange cap is laser  
welded to said second ring.

13. The filter device according to claim 1 wherein said  
2 housing is cylindrical in shape.

14 A filter device comprising:

2 a housing having a first end;

4 a first ring joinable to said first end wherein said first  
ring has a first annular anchor on an interior portion of said  
first ring;

6 a first flange cap joinable to said first ring forming a  
first seal;

8 a plurality of microfibers extending from said first ring  
through said housing;

10 a first potting material encasing said plurality of  
microfibers at said first ring and encasing said first annular  
12 anchor forming a second seal;

14 a first fluid inlet port through said first flange cap  
16 wherein a first portion of a first fluid pathway is defined by  
said first fluid inlet port and said plurality of microfibers;

18 and

20 a second fluid inlet port through said housing and proximate  
to said first end wherein a first portion of a second fluid  
pathway is defined by said second fluid inlet port and a space  
between said plurality of microfibers.

15. The filter device according to claim 14 further  
2 comprising:

a second end of said housing opposite said first end;

4           a second ring joinable to said second end wherein said  
5       second ring has a second annular anchor on an interior portion of  
6       said second ring;

7           a second flange cap joinable to said second ring forming a  
8       third seal;

9           a second potting material encasing said plurality of  
10      microfibers at said second ring and encasing said second annular  
11      anchor forming a fourth seal;

12          a first fluid outlet port through said second flange cap  
13       wherein a second portion of said first fluid pathway is defined  
14       by said second fluid outlet port and said plurality of  
15      microfibers; and

16          a second fluid outlet port through said housing and  
17       proximate to said second end wherein a second portion of said  
18      second fluid pathway is defined by said second fluid outlet port  
19       and said space between said plurality of microfibers.

20         16. The filter device according to claim 14 wherein each of  
21        said plurality of microfibers are hollow and semipermeable.

22         17. The filter device according to claim 14 wherein said  
23        first annular anchor and said second annular anchor receive a  
24       surface treatment, wherein said surface treatment modifies a  
25       surface energy of said first annular anchor and said second  
26       annular anchor.

18. The filter device according to claim 17 further

2 comprising:

a first plurality of rounded ridges on an upper surface of

4 said first annular anchor and a second plurality of rounded

ridges on a lower surface of said first annular anchor; and

6 a third plurality of rounded ridges on an upper surface of

said second annular anchor and a fourth plurality of rounded

8 ridges on a lower surface of said second annular anchor;

wherein said first and second plurality of rounded ridges

10 and said third and fourth plurality of rounded ridges on said

first and second annular anchors minimize a delamination of said

12 first and second potting materials from said first and second

annular anchors, and increases a surface area of said first and

14 second annular anchors treatable through said surface treatment.

19. The filter device according to claim 18 further

2 comprising:

a first plurality of radial channels perpendicular to said

4 first plurality of rounded ridges on said upper surface of said

first annular anchor; and

6 a second plurality of radial channels perpendicular to said

third plurality of rounded ridges on said upper surface of said

8 second annular anchor;

wherein said first and second plurality of radial channels

10 allow air to escape when said first and second potting material

is applied to said filter device.

20. The filter device according to claim 14 wherein said  
2 first ring is spin welded to said first end, said second ring is  
spin welded to said second end, said first flange cap is spin  
4 welded to said first ring, and said second flange cap is spin  
welded to said second ring.

21. The filter device according to claim 20 further  
2 comprising:

a first plurality of nubs on an outer portion of said first  
4 ring; and  
a second plurality of nubs on an outer portion of said  
6 second ring;

wherein said first and second plurality of nubs assist in  
8 said spin welding.

22. The filter device according to claim 20 further  
2 comprising:

at least one annular channel located between said first ring  
4 and said first end; and  
at least one annular channel located between said second  
6 ring and said second end;

wherein each of said at least one annular channel  
8 accommodates a flow of flash material during said spin welding.

23. The filter device according to claim 20 further

2 comprising:

at least one annular channel located between said first ring

4 and said first flange cap; and

at least one annular channel located between said second

6 ring and said second flange cap;

wherein each of said at least one annular channel

8 accommodates a flow of flash material during said spin welding.

24. The filter device according to claim 14 wherein said

2 first ring is laser welded to said first end, said second ring is

laser welded to said second end, said first flange cap is laser

4 welded to said first ring, and said second flange cap is laser

welded to said second ring.

25. The filter device according to claim 14 wherein said

2 housing is cylindrical in shape.

26. A filter device prepared by a process comprising the

2 steps of:

4 (a) joining a first ring to a first end of a housing  
wherein said first ring has a first annular anchor on an interior  
portion of said first ring;

6 (b) inserting a plurality of microfibers within said  
housing that extend to said first ring;

8 (c) encasing said plurality of microfibers and said first  
annular anchor at said first ring with a first potting material  
10 forming a first seal; and

12 (d) joining a first flange cap to said first ring forming a  
second seal.

27. A filter device prepared by a process according to

2 claim 26 wherein said encasing step (c) further comprises the  
steps (c1) through (c6):

4 (c1) attaching a first potting cap to said first ring to  
close off said first end;

6 (c2) placing said housing in a centrifuge to allow rotation  
about an axis of rotation perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of  
8 said housing, wherein said axis of rotation extends through a  
midpoint of said housing;

10 (c3) injecting said first potting material into said housing  
proximate to said first end;

12 (c4) spinning said housing in said centrifuge causing said  
first potting material to set and harden, encasing said plurality

14 of microfibers and said first annular anchor at said first ring  
at said first end forming said first seal;  
16 (c5) removing said first potting cap; and  
(c6) cutting said first potting material and said plurality  
18 of microfibers at said first end through a first plane  
perpendicular to said longitudinal axis, exposing an interior  
20 channel of each of said plurality of microfibers at said first  
end.

28. A filter device prepared by a process according to  
2 claim 26 further comprising the steps of:  
4 (e) joining a second ring to a second end of said housing  
wherein said second ring has a second annular anchor on an  
interior portion of said second ring;  
6 (f) extending said plurality of microfibers within said  
housing to said second ring;  
8 (g) encasing said plurality of microfibers and said second  
annular anchor at said second ring with a second potting material  
10 forming a third seal; and  
12 (h) joining a second flange cap to said second ring forming  
a fourth seal.

29. A filter device prepared by a process according to  
2 claim 28 wherein said encasing step (g) further comprises the  
steps (g1) through (g6):

4                 (g1) attaching a second potting cap to said second ring to  
close off said second end;

6                 (g2) placing said housing in said centrifuge to allow  
rotation about said axis of rotation perpendicular to said  
8         longitudinal axis of said housing, wherein said axis of rotation  
extends through said midpoint of said housing;

10                (g3) injecting said second potting material into said  
housing proximate to said second end;

12                (g4) spinning said housing in said centrifuge causing said  
second potting material to set and harden, encasing said  
14         plurality of microfibers and said second annular anchor at said  
second ring at said second end of said housing forming said third  
16         seal;

18                (g5) removing said second potting cap; and

20                (g6) cutting said second potting material and said plurality  
of microfibers at said second end through a second plane  
perpendicular to said longitudinal axis, exposing said interior  
channel of each of said plurality of microfibers at said second  
22         end.

30. A filter device prepared by a process according to  
2 claim 28 wherein said joining steps (a), (d), (e), and (h)  
further comprise the steps (a1), (d1), (e1), and (h1):

4                 (a1) spin welding said first ring to said first end;  
               (d1) spin welding said second ring to said second end;

6 (e1) spin welding said first flange cap to said first ring;

and

8 (h1) spin welding said second flange cap to said second  
ring.

31. A filter device prepared by a process according to  
2 claim 30 further comprising:

4 forming a first plurality of nubs on an outer portion of  
said first ring; and

6 forming a second plurality of nubs on an outer portion of  
said second ring;

8 wherein said first and second plurality of nubs assist in  
said spin welding.

32. A filter device prepared by a process according to  
2 claim 30 further comprising:

4 forming at least one annular channel between said first ring  
and said first end; and

6 forming at least one annular channel between said second  
ring and said second end;

8 wherein each of said at least one annular channel  
accommodates a flow of flash material during said spin welding.

33. A filter device prepared by a process according to  
2 claim 30 further comprising:

forming at least one annular channel between said first ring  
4 and said first flange cap; and  
forming at least one annular channel between said second  
6 ring and said second flange cap;  
wherein each of said at least one annular channel  
8 accommodates a flow of flash material during said spin welding.

34. A filter device prepared by a process according to  
2 claim 28 wherein said joining steps (a), (d), (e), and (h)  
further comprise the steps (a1), (d1), (e1), and (h1):

4 (a1) laser welding said first ring to said first end;  
(d1) laser welding said second ring to said second end;  
6 (e1) laser welding said first flange cap to said first ring;  
and  
8 (h1) laser welding said second flange cap to said second  
ring.

35. A filter device prepared by a process according to  
2 claim 26 further comprising:

forming a first fluid inlet port in said first flange cap;  
4 forming a first fluid outlet port in said second flange cap;  
forming a second fluid inlet port through said housing and  
6 proximate to said first end; and  
forming a second fluid outlet port through said housing and  
8 proximate to said second end;

wherein a first fluid pathway is defined by said first fluid  
10 inlet port, said plurality of microfibers, and said first fluid  
outlet port; and  
12 further wherein a second fluid pathway is defined by said  
second fluid inlet port, a space between said plurality of  
14 microfibers, and said second fluid outlet port.

36. A filter device prepared by a process according to  
2 claim 26 further comprising:

treating said first annular anchor and said second annular  
4 anchor with a surface treatment, wherein said surface treatment  
modifies a surface energy of said first annular anchor and said  
6 second annular anchor.

37. A filter device prepared by a process according to  
2 claim 36 further comprising:

forming a first plurality of rounded ridges on an upper  
4 surface of said first annular anchor;

forming a second plurality of rounded ridges on a lower  
6 surface of said first annular anchor;

forming a third plurality of rounded ridges on an upper  
8 surface of said second annular anchor; and

forming a fourth plurality of rounded ridges on a lower  
10 surface of said second annular anchor;

wherein said first and second plurality of rounded ridges  
12 and said third and fourth plurality of rounded ridges on said

first and second annular anchors minimize a delamination of said  
14 first and second potting materials from said first and second  
annular anchors, and increases a surface area of said first and  
16 second annular anchors treatable through said surface treatment.

38. A filter device prepared by a process according to  
2 claim 37 further comprising:

notching a first plurality of radial channels perpendicular  
4 to said first plurality of rounded ridges on said upper surface  
of said first annular anchor; and

6 notching a second plurality of radial channels perpendicular  
to said third plurality of rounded ridges on said upper surface  
8 of said second annular anchor;

wherein said first and second plurality of radial channels  
10 allow air to escape when said first and second potting material  
is applied to said filter device.

~~39.~~ A filtering method comprising the steps of:

2       (a) providing a filter device having a first ring joinable  
to a first end of a housing wherein said first ring has a first  
4 annular anchor on an interior portion of said first ring, a  
plurality of microfibers within said housing that extend to said  
6 first ring, a first potting material encasing said plurality of  
microfibers and said first annular anchor at said first ring  
8 forming a first seal, a first flange cap joinable to said first  
ring forming a second seal, a second ring joinable to a second  
10 end of said housing wherein said second ring has a second annular  
anchor on an interior portion of said second ring, a second  
12 potting material encasing said plurality of microfibers and said  
second annular anchor at said second ring forming a third seal,  
14 and a second flange cap joinable to said second ring forming a  
fourth seal;

16       (b) flowing a first fluid through a first flow path defined  
by a first fluid inlet port in said first flange cap, through  
18 said plurality of microfibers, and flowing out of a first fluid  
outlet port in said second flange cap; and

20       (c) flowing a second fluid through a second flow path  
defined by a second fluid inlet port through said housing and  
22 proximate to said first end, through a space between said  
plurality of microfibers, and flowing out of a second fluid  
24 outlet port through said housing and proximate to said second  
end.

40. A filtering method according to claim 39 wherein said

2 first annular anchor and said second annular anchor are treated  
with a surface treatment, wherein said surface treatment modifies  
4 a surface energy of said first annular anchor and said second  
annular anchor.

41. A filtering method according to claim 40 wherein said

2 first annular anchor has a first plurality of rounded ridges on  
an upper surface and a second plurality of rounded ridges on a  
4 lower surface, and said second annular anchor has a third  
plurality of rounded ridges on an upper surface and a fourth  
6 plurality of rounded ridges on a lower surface;

wherein said first and second plurality of rounded ridges

8 and said third and fourth plurality of rounded ridges on said  
first and second annular anchors minimize a delamination of said  
10 first and second potting materials from said first and second  
annular anchors, and increases a surface area of said first and  
12 second annular anchors treatable through said surface treatment.

42. A filtering method according to claim 41 wherein a

2 first plurality of radial channels are notched perpendicular to  
said first plurality of rounded ridges on said upper surface of  
4 said first annular anchor, and a second plurality of radial  
channels are notched perpendicular to said third plurality of  
6 rounded ridges on said upper surface of said second annular  
anchor;

8       wherein said first and second plurality of radial channels  
allow air to escape when said first and second potting material  
10      is applied to said filter device.

43. A filtering method according to claim 39 wherein said  
2      first fluid flowing in said first flow path flows in a  
countercurrent direction to said second fluid flowing in said  
4      second flow path.

44. A filtering method according to claim 39 wherein said  
2      first fluid is blood and said second fluid is dialysate and  
further comprising the steps of:

4          connecting an arterial blood line to said first fluid inlet  
port;

6          connecting a venous blood line to said first fluid outlet  
port;

8          connecting a dialysate supply line to said second fluid  
inlet port;

10         connecting a dialysate return line to said second fluid  
outlet port;

12         wherein impurities in said blood diffuse through said  
plurality of microfibers into said dialysate, and further wherein  
14        nutrients diffuse through said plurality of microfibers into said  
blood.

~~45.~~ A filter device comprising:

2           a housing having a first end;  
4           a first ring joinable to said first end wherein said first  
6           ring has a first annular anchor on an interior portion of said  
8           first ring, and further wherein said first annular anchor  
10          receives a surface treatment, wherein said surface treatment  
12          modifies a surface energy of said first annular anchor;  
14          a first flange cap joinable to said first ring forming a  
16          first seal;  
18          a plurality of microfibers extending from said first ring  
20          through said housing, and  
22          a first potting material encasing said plurality of  
24          microfibers at said first ring and encasing said first annular  
26          anchor forming a second seal.

46. The filter device according to claim 45 further

2 comprising:

4           a second end of said housing opposite said first end;  
6           a second ring joinable to said second end wherein said  
8           second ring has a second annular anchor on an interior portion of  
10          said second ring, and further wherein said second annular anchor  
12          receives said surface treatment, wherein said surface treatment  
14          modifies a surface energy of said second annular anchor;  
16          a second flange cap joinable to said second ring forming a  
18          third seal; and

12           a second potting material encasing said plurality of  
microfibers at said second ring and encasing said second annular  
anchor forming a fourth seal.

47. The filter device according to claim 46 further  
2 comprising:

4           a first fluid inlet port through said first flange cap,  
6           a first fluid outlet port through said second flange cap,  
wherein a first fluid pathway is defined by said first fluid  
inlet port, said plurality of microfibers, and said first fluid  
outlet port;

8           a second fluid inlet port through said housing and proximate  
to said first end; and

10          a second fluid outlet port through said housing and  
proximate to said second end, wherein a second fluid pathway is  
12 defined by said second fluid inlet port, a space between said  
plurality of microfibers, and said second fluid outlet port.

48. The filter device according to claim 46 further  
2 comprising:

4           a first plurality of rounded ridges on an upper surface of  
said first annular anchor and a second plurality of rounded  
ridges on a lower surface of said first annular anchor; and

6           a third plurality of rounded ridges on an upper surface of  
said second annular anchor and a fourth plurality of rounded  
8           ridges on a lower surface of said second annular anchor;

wherein said first and second plurality of rounded ridges  
10 and said third and fourth plurality of rounded ridges on said  
first and second annular anchors minimize a delamination of said  
12 first and second potting materials from said first and second  
annular anchors, and increases a surface area of said first and  
14 second annular anchors treatable through said surface treatment.

49. The filter device according to claim 48 further  
2 comprising:

a first plurality of radial channels perpendicular to said  
4 first plurality of rounded ridges on said upper surface of said  
first annular anchor; and  
6 a second plurality of radial channels perpendicular to said  
third plurality of rounded ridges on said upper surface of said  
8 second annular anchor;

wherein said first and second plurality of radial channels  
10 allow air to escape when said first and second potting material  
is applied to said filter device.

50. A filter device comprising:

2        a housing having a first end;

4        a first ring joinable to said first end wherein said first  
ring has a first annular anchor on an interior portion of said  
first ring;

6        a first plurality of rounded ridges on an upper surface of  
said first annular anchor and a second plurality of rounded  
8        ridges on a lower surface of said first annular anchor;

10      a first flange cap joinable to said first ring forming a  
first seal;

12      a plurality of microfibers extending from said first ring  
through said housing; and

14      a first potting material encasing said plurality of  
microfibers at said first ring, and encasing said first plurality  
of rounded ridges on said upper surface and said second plurality  
16      of rounded ridges on said lower surface of said first annular  
anchor, forming a second seal;

18      wherein said first and second plurality of rounded ridges on  
said first annular anchor minimizes a delamination of said first  
20      potting material from said first annular anchor.

51. The filter device according to claim 50 further  
2        comprising:

      a second end of said housing opposite said first end;

4        a second ring joinable to said second end wherein said  
second ring has a second annular anchor on an interior portion of  
6        said second ring;  
            a third plurality of rounded ridges on an upper surface of  
8        said second annular anchor and a fourth plurality of rounded  
ridges on a lower surface of said second annular anchor;  
10       a second flange cap joinable to said second ring forming a  
third seal; and  
12       a second potting material encasing said plurality of  
microfibers at said second ring, and encasing said third  
14       plurality of rounded ridges on said upper surface and said fourth  
plurality of rounded ridges on said lower surface of said second  
16       annular anchor, forming a fourth seal;  
            wherein said third and fourth plurality of rounded ridges on  
18       said second annular anchor minimizes a delamination of said  
second potting material from said second annular anchor.

52. The filter device according to claim 51 further  
2 comprising:

4        a first fluid inlet port through said first flange cap;  
6        a first fluid outlet port through said second flange cap,  
wherein a first fluid pathway is defined by said first fluid  
8       inlet port, said plurality of microfibers, and said first fluid  
outlet port;  
            a second fluid inlet port through said housing and proximate  
to said first end; and

10        a second fluid outlet port through said housing and  
proximate to said second end, wherein a second fluid pathway is  
12 defined by said second fluid inlet port, a space between said  
plurality of microfibers, and said second fluid outlet port.

53. The filter device according to claim 51 further  
2 comprising:

4        a first plurality of radial channels perpendicular to said  
first plurality of rounded ridges on said upper surface of said  
first annular anchor; and

6        a second plurality of radial channels perpendicular to said  
third plurality of rounded ridges on said upper surface of said  
8 second annular anchor;

10        wherein said first and second plurality of radial channels  
allow air to escape when said first and second potting material  
is applied to said filter device.

54. The filter device according to claim 51 wherein said  
2 first annular anchor and said second annular anchor receive a  
surface treatment, wherein said surface treatment modifies a  
4 surface energy of said first and second plurality of rounded  
ridges on said first annular anchor and said third and fourth  
6 plurality of rounded ridges on said second annular anchor, and  
further wherein said first and second plurality of rounded ridges  
8 and said third and fourth plurality of rounded ridges increases a

surface area of said first and second annular anchors treatable  
10 through said surface treatment.

55. A filter device comprising:

2           a housing having a first end;

4           a first ring joinable to said first end wherein said first  
ring has a first annular anchor on an interior portion of said  
first ring;

6           a first flange cap joinable to said first ring forming a  
first seal;

8           a plurality of microfibers extending from said first ring  
through said housing; and

10          a first potting material encasing said plurality of  
microfibers at said first ring and encasing said first annular  
12         anchor forming a second seal; and

14          at least one annular channel located between said first ring  
and said first flange cap;

16          wherein each of said at least one annular channel  
accommodates a residue material during said joining of said first  
flange cap to said first ring.

56. The filter device according to claim 55 further  
2 comprising:

4           a second end of said housing opposite said first end;

6           a second ring joinable to said second end wherein said  
second ring has a second annular anchor on an interior portion of  
said second ring;

8           a second flange cap joinable to said second ring forming a  
third seal;

a second potting material encasing said plurality of  
10 microfibers at said second ring and encasing said second annular  
anchor forming a fourth seal; and  
12 at least one annular channel located between said second  
ring and said second flange cap;  
14 wherein each of said at least one annular channel  
accommodates a residue material during said joining of said  
16 second flange cap to said second ring.

57. The filter device according to claim 56 further  
2 comprising:  
4 a first fluid inlet port through said first flange cap;  
6 a first fluid outlet port through said second flange cap,  
wherein a first fluid pathway is defined by said first fluid  
inlet port, said plurality of microfibers, and said first fluid  
outlet port;  
8 a second fluid inlet port through said housing and proximate  
to said first end; and  
10 a second fluid outlet port through said housing and  
proximate to said second end, wherein a second fluid pathway is  
12 defined by said second fluid inlet port, a space between said  
plurality of microfibers, and said second fluid outlet port.

58. The filter device according to claim 56 further  
2 comprising:

at least one annular channel located between said first ring

4 and said first end; and

at least one annular channel located between said second  
6 ring and said second end;

wherein each of said at least one annular channel  
8 accommodates a residue material during said joining of said  
second ring to said second end.

59. The filter device according to claim 56 wherein said

2 first annular anchor and said second annular anchor receive a  
surface treatment, wherein said surface treatment modifies a  
4 surface energy of said first and second annular anchors.

60. The filter device according to claim 59 further

2 comprising:

4 a first plurality of rounded ridges on an upper surface of  
said first annular anchor and a second plurality of rounded  
ridges on a lower surface of said first annular anchor; and

6 a third plurality of rounded ridges on an upper surface of  
said second annular anchor and a fourth plurality of rounded  
8 ridges on a lower surface of said second annular anchor;

10 wherein said first and second plurality of rounded ridges  
and said third and fourth plurality of rounded ridges on said  
first and second annular anchors minimize a delamination of said  
12 first and second potting materials from said first and second

annular anchors, and increases a surface area of said first and  
14 second annular anchors treatable through said surface treatment.

61. The filter device according to claim 56 further  
2 comprising:

4 a first plurality of radial channels perpendicular to said  
first annular anchor; and

6 a second plurality of radial channels perpendicular to said  
third plurality of rounded ridges on said upper surface of said  
8 second annular anchor;

10 wherein said first and second plurality of radial channels  
allow air to escape when said first and second potting material  
is applied to said filter device.